UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,510	06/15/2001	Karl Stephen Fessenden	13DV13824	2896

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2141	

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _6/15/2001_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 4, the phrase should read "capable of" to be grammatically correct. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Costello (U.S. 2002/0007225).

As per claim 1, Costello teaches a system configured for documenting and communicating component engineering and development needs, comprising: a server configured with a database of part related data (page 2, paragraph 0011; where the existence of the server is inherent), said server capable of allowing a user to input information into the database for upload to said server including component non-serviceability documentation of said user (page 4, paragraphs 0032 and 0035) and allowing a user to download information from the database including repair development opportunities (page 4, paragraph 0035; see also paragraph

0031); at least one computer (figures 1 and 3; page 2, paragraph 0011); an input means for

filtering information between the user and server (page 2, paragraph 0011, where the graphical

progression through links constitutes the filtering of information); and an interface between the

at least one computer and the server (page 2, paragraph 0025; where the use of a database

enabled over the Internet inherently constitutes an interface between a computer and a server).

As per claim 2, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part related

data is reviewed for potential engineering opportunities (pages 3-4; paragraph 0031).

As per claim 3, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input means

comprises a wizard (page 5, paragraph 0039).

As per claim 5, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user

comprises multiple users (page 8, paragraph 0067; page 10, paragraph 0082).

As per claim 8, Costello teaches a system in claim 1, wherein the interface is provided by

web pages that can be transmitted from the database to the user (page 8, paragraph 0064, in the

discussion of the web format).

As per claim 9, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the component

engineering and development needs comprise non-serviceability and repair needs (pages 3-4;

paragraph 0031).

As per claim 10, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said server is

configured to store and download text and digital images (page 7, paragraph 0058).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Costello in view of Huang (U.S. 5,953,707).

As per claim 4, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 1, and having a login/sign

on process (page 8, paragraph 0067), but does not specifically teach the accessing of the system

by user password. Huang teaches that the access to the server is configured to be secured by user

password (paragraph 1550). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to include this limitation as taught by Huang in the system of Costello. The

motivation for doing so lies in the fact that both inventions are from the same field of endeavor,

namely the facilitation of administering resources for repair and gathering maintenance

information. The specific inclusion of a password security measure would prevent unauthorized

users from accessing the database system, which is obvious.

As per claim 6, Costello teaches a system as claimed in claim 5, but does not specifically

teach the ownership of the database by an owner entity. Huang teaches the system wherein the

database is owned by an owner entity (paragraphs 1550, 1563). It would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include this limitation as taught by

Huang in the system of Costello. The motivation for doing so is discussed in the treatment of

claim 4.

As per claim 7, Costello-Huang teaches a system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the multiple users comprise users internal to the owner entity and users external to the owner entity (Huang: paragraph 1550). The motivation to combine teachings is discussed in the treatment of claim 4.

As per claim 11, Costello-Huang teaches a method for documenting and communicating component engineering and development needs of internal users and external users using a system which includes a server and at least one client system, the method comprising the steps of: uploading user information to the server (Costello: page 10, paragraph 0082); downloading from the server, web pages configured to direct internal and external users to a database and related applications within the server, the database configured with component engineering and development data (Costello: page 8, paragraph 0064, in the discussion of the web format, column 2, paragraph 0011; Huang: paragraph 1550); uploading user selections input into the web pages to the server (Costello: paragraph 0012; where the user's clicking on the desired links constitutes selections input); downloading from the server component engineering and development opportunities responsive to the component engineering and development data (Costello: pages 3-4; paragraph 0031); and using an input means to filter information between the user and the server (Costello: page 2, paragraph 0011, where the graphical progression through links constitutes the filtering of information). The motivations to combine teachings are discussed in the treatment of claim 4.

As per claim 12, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of configuring the server to be secured by user password (Huang: paragraph 1550).

As per claim 13, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

component engineering and development needs comprises component non-serviceability and

repair needs (Costello: pages 3-4; paragraph 0031).

. As per claim 14, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, further

comprising the step of configuring the server to store and download text and digital images

(Costello: page 7, paragraph 0058).

As per claim 15, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the

step of downloading from the server, web pages configured to direct internal and external users

to a database and related applications within the server, further comprises the step of

downloading from the server, web pages configured to direct internal and external users to a

database and related applications within the server (Costello: page 3, paragraph 0026, page 4,

paragraph 0034), the related applications including a part detail application, an engineering or

development review application, a customer disposition determination application, and a part

status application (Costello: page 3, paragraph 0027; where the part detail is obtained from the

service center, the customer disposition is obtained from the customer service center, and the part

status is discussed in paragraph 0031.).

As per claim 16, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, further

comprising the step of configuring the server to allow for a customized output feature (Huang:

paragraphs 5, 9, 11, 57, and 1545). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

at the time of the invention to include this limitation into the disclosed teachings of Costello-

Huang, as a customizable output would lend itself to further user-friendliness, tailored to the

preferences of the technician. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that both inventions

are from the same field of endeavor, namely the facilitation of administering resources for repair

and gathering maintenance information.

As per claim 17, Costello-Huang teaches a method as claimed in claim 11, further

comprising the step of configuring the server to have a search capability for finding components

meeting a specified set of criteria (Costello: paragraphs 0044-0046).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure:

a. Vroman (U.S. 6,691,064) teaches a method and system for identifying repeatedly

malfunctioning equipment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 703/605-1228 until

October 15, 2004, after which it becomes 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached

on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 703/305-4003. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tanim Hossain
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2141

RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER